## In re Appln. of Dirksen et al. Application No. 09/737,905

- 18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the metal oxide abrasive is silica.
- 19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the metal oxide abrasive is fumed silica.
- 20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the total surface hydroxyl group density is no greater than about 2.8 hydroxyl groups per nm<sup>2</sup>.
- 21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the total surface hydroxyl group density is no greater than about 2.5 hydroxyl groups per nm<sup>2</sup>.
- 22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the substrate comprises a metal.
- 23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the metal of the substrate is selected from the group consisting of copper, aluminum, titanium, tungsten, gold, platinum, iridium, ruthenium, and combinations thereof.
- 24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the metal of the substrate is tungsten.
- 25. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the substrate comprises a metal oxide.
- 26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the metal oxide of the substrate is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania, ceria, zirconia, germania, magnesia, and combinations thereof.
- 27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the metal oxide of the substrate is silica.
- 28. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the substrate comprises a metal composite.